Hello sir/madam:

I have been following the Microsoft case closely since it began. The latest settlement proposal is non exceptable.

"Punishing" Microsoft by "making" them donate software and computers to some of the poorest schools is not a punishment. At first it may seem to put a dent in their checkbook, but, as Microsoft may well know, those children will grow up only knowing, and dependant on Microsoft products. Thus, the monopoly cycle begins again. I believe Microsoft knows this, because they donate software to schools already.

As yourself, and Microsoft knows, the Open Source Movement is the biggest threat to Microsoft's monopoly. Because no one "owns" Linux or other Open Source software, there is no company for Microsoft to buy out or to do a hostile take over. But the Final Judgement Section III(J)(2), does not protect Open Source.

Microsoft will use this section to find a way to stop all Open Source projects, thus squashing their only real competitor. Microsoft will find a way to take advantage of Secion III (J)(2)!

Nine other states have developed their own proposal, part of which states that Microsoft must allow third party developers to develop a version of Microsoft Office for other operating systems such as Linux. I applaud these efforts; however; I believe making Microsoft release the proprietary code of their Microsoft Office File formats (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Access) to the public for a set period of time, such at 10 years, is a more just punishment than currently proposed.

This would allow other developers to make their office products be 100% compatible with Microsoft Office. This would break Microsoft's monopoly in more ways than by allowing third parties to port Microsoft Office to other operating oystems.

I am a system administrator for a non-profit company. The only reason why we use Microsoft Windows and Office is because we have Office files that merge data from our database server. There are other programs, such as StarOffice, that can read office files, but not 100%. Because of this, our Word files that use Mail Merge with our database doesn't work with anything but Microsoft Office. Thus, we are forced to use Microsoft's software.

If the Microsoft Office file format was made open to the public, programs like Star Office could be 100% compatible with Microsoft Office files. This

would allow companies like us to move to other operating systems, such as Linux, and use any office program that we like, such as Star Office, to read our Microsoft Office documents and it would read it correctly.

As you can see, this would break the Microsoft monopoly with more impact than by just having a third party port Microsoft Office to another operating system.

Thank you,

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